ST. SWITHIN VINDICATED.

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTINU-OUS DOWNPOUR.

THE RAIN DELUGED THE CITY YESTERDAY, BUT THE WEATHER BUREAU PROMISES SUNSHINE FOR TO-DAY-SEASIDE HOTELS AND FARMERS SUS-

It would appear that St. Swithin is an overnuch abused individual, and that the anathemas that have been heaped upon his head of late because of the continuous rain with which he has been accredited with deluging this part of the country are entirely undeserved. Day after day the little verse that predicts forty days of rain repeated by thousands of disconsolate and drenched people, and there is probably not a newspaper in the city that has not referred to rhyming tradition. And yet after all it seems that the rainv saint is entirely guiltless of responsibility for the wretched weather conditions that have prevailed for the greater part

It was left for The Tribune to do justice to the canonized prelate of Winchester in its editorial columns yesterday. Therein it was pointed out that July 15 last was fair and dry in New-York, and, in fact, all over the country, with the exception of local showers in the Ohio and Tennessee valleys. This statement is supported by officials of the Weather Bureau. E. H. Emery, who is temporarily in charge of the department, said yesterday that no rain fell on the 15th, nor upon the two succeeding days. Thus another blow has been dealt a superstition that has been handed down to posterity for gen-

#### A PROMISE OF SUNSHINE.

People who have been wondering whether or not forty days of rain were really in store for them will be relieved to know that there is at length some prospect of clearer weather. Today, according to the predictions of Mr. Emery, will probably see the beginning of a bright and warm period. Throughout the country west of the lower lake regions fair weather existed yesterday, and with the dissipation by westerly winds of the storm centre hovering over the lower lakes relief will come from conditions that have tended to make this July the most miserable that memory recalls for many years.

In more than one respect the month has been a veritable freak. It has in its lunar span had such a combination of heat, frigidity and continuous rain as no other July can show on the pages of Mr. Dunn's records. But rain-laden as it has been, there have been two other contemporary months in previous years with a greater olume of rain. In 1872 and 1889 over nine inches fell in July. Rain has fallen every day with three exceptions since the 11th of the present month, the total fall up to S a. m. yesterday being 6.94 inches. In the subsequent twelve hours no less than 1.51 inches was measured, making the fall for the month so far 8.45 inches. But unless the forecast of the official weather prophets is verified, it is likely that this create yet another precedent by beating the 9.63 record of July, 1889.

### RAIN FELL IN TORRENTS.

Yesterday's conditions compared well with the worst of the days that preceded it. Rain fell intermittently the whole of the day, over the city hung a thick, impenetrable blanket of gloom, and a chilling easterly wind swept at a mile rate along the streets. To add to the thorough depravity of the day, an uncomfortably high percentage of humidity prevailed. With one exception it was the coldest July 28 on record, and those who took the precaution to wear overcoats had good cause to be grateful.

During the early part of the day a thin, drizzling rain, such as London is accustomed to, but which is a misfit for New-York at this time of the year, made it distressing for pedestrians. the afternoon, when the rain began to fall with the persistency and force of a tropical storm. For hours it continued without the sign of abatement. To make matters even worse, two thunderstorms broke over the city at night, flooding the streets to such an extent as to make them almost impassable in many places.

# HOTEL PROPRIETORS SUFFER.

The prolonged wet weather, besides being a source of discomfort to city residents, has more serious consequences to answer for. From the hotel and boarding-house keepers at the seaside and inland country resorts are heard loud lamentations, and they tell of the loss because of the continued rain of many thousands of doiof the continued rain of many thousands of dollars. Transportation companies furnishing accommodations to the rearby seashores are also complaining, and it has been estimated by an official of the Starin Line that the loss to different companies has not been less than a round million of dollars. For days past the pleasure steamers that ply from New-York have frequently not carried more than a score of passengers on a trip.

The experiences of the hotel and boardinghouse proprietors and of people who cater to

The experiences of the hotel and boardinghouse proprietors and of people who cater to
the amusement of visitors to holiday places
have been equally disastrous. At the best their
season, during which time they rely upon making money enough to carry them through the
rest of the year, lasts only about four months.
Consequently a whole month of bad weather
will bring many of them face to face with actual
bankruptcy. From every popular resort in the
vicinity of New-York reports are arriving that
the season has been well-nigh killed by the relentless rain. Many of the places are almost
deserted, and guests, tired of the monotony of
the dreary weather, are leaving for their city
homes in such numbers that the hotels are becoming greatly depleted Such a depressed state
of things could not have happened at a more inopportune time of the summer.

#### opportune time of the summer. IT COMES AT THEIR HARVEST TIME.

From the middle of July until the beginning of September the hotel man looks for his best harvest time. Usually those six weeks mean to him a period of large receipts. Therefore, with many of their guests already driven away, and with the prospect that the combined cold and wet will persuade others to forego their usual so-

wet will persuade others to forego their usual sojourn by the sea this year, the outlook is especially ominous. Even if the rest of the summer
should assume its brightest garb, the losses already sustained will bardly be recovered.

Even more baneful have been the effects of
the extended rainfall upon the farmers and the
fruit and vegetable growers in New-York and
the surrounding States. Crops, particularly
those which lie close to the carth, have been seriously damaged. The wheat, out and hay crops
that have been cut cannot be housed, and are
suffering from the excessive moisture. Such
products as melons and tomatoes are ruined in
many sections, while advices from New-Jersey
state that potatoes in the fields are rotting. The
absence of sunshine has greatly retarded the
ripening of fruit, and the greater part of the
cutput of late berries has been so spoiled that
they will be available for sale only to dealers in
canned fruits, as they are fit only to be preterved. In many sections the grape crops are
said to be absolutely spoiled.

The forecast for to-day is for showers, followed
by clearing, with stationary temperature and
westerly winds.

#### STORMBOUND ALONG THE SOUND. EXCURSION AND OTHER VESSELS COMPELLED TO

SEEK SHELTER ON TUESDAY NIGHT. The northeast storm yesterday night made Long Island Sound too rough for travelling. The Sound was covered with whitecaps, and few boats completed their trips. The harbor at Northport and Huntington Harbor were filled with vessels of all descriptions and sizes, from big Sound and excursion steamers down to little

schooners.

Among the vessels that remained in North-port Harbor over night was the side-wheeler Glen Island. She had an excursion party of five

hundred New-Haven people on board, and was on her way to that place from New-York, when the captain decided to lie over on account of the weather.

weather.

The roughness of the water frightened many women and children, and made them seasick.

NEWARK PARTLY INUNDATED. GREAT DAMAGE DONE BY THE FLOODING OF

CELLARS-RAILROAD TRAVEL DELAYED.

Yesterday's storm did great damage in New ark, all the low-lying part of the city being in dundated, in some places to the depth of six feet. Cellars and basements were flooded, and in some neighborhoods there was great anxiety and even terror, as the rain continued to fall in torrents after nightfall. Railroad trains were delayed and the trolley service on several lines

Along Pennsylvania Railroad-ave, stretched a sheet of water three or four feet deep and in some places much deeper, so that the water came up to the letter-boxes at the street corners Trains passed through the avenue slowly, the engines ploughing along, throwing aside the water like steamboats. All trains were half an hour late in consequence of washouts along the road. pearance of a river. All the cellars of factories and other buildings and the first floors are unde water, and the damage to stock and machinery must be great. At Frelinghuysen-ave, the tracks away and trains had to reach New-York by way of Metuchen. The westbound track of the Penn sylvania Railroad was, in places, six feet under water, and no engine could get through without having its fires extinguished.

The west side of Newark was heavily fnundated, and a large section was converted into a lake. People were penned in their houses with the water three feet deep. The flood cut off trolley connection between Newark and Eliza-

beth.

The fall of the tide in the river at night carried off much water on the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks, and allowed trains to pass through without detention. On the Eric Road, washouts were reported, and a train was stalled at the Fourth-ave, station. Communication by trolley Fourth-ave, station. Communication by trolley with Bloomfield and Glen Ridge was interrupted by the flood, and boats were in requisition in

## LIGHTNING STRIKES A PARK TREE.

A POLICEMAN'S STORY OF THE DAMAGE DONE. of lightning struck and uprooted a willow tree in Central Park, beside the southwest walk and near the Museum of Art. The tree was thrown acrosthe walk. Park Policeman McKenna was within the wark. Fark Policeman McKenna was within two hundred feet of the place when the lightning struck. He says there was a terrific report and the tree was hurled into the air fifty feet or more. The earth for a distance of ten feet in every direction was torn up, leaving a hole two feet deep. McKenna would not abate one inch in his measurements when cross-examined.

A CLOUDBURST IN NEW-JERSEY. MANY TOWNS UNDER WATER-SEVERAL DAMS

#### REPORTED TO BE IN A DANGER-OUS CONDITION.

Flainfield, N. J., July 28 (Special).-The rainfall of the last fourteen days culminated this afternoon and evening in a dangerous cloudburst, which swept over Hunterdon, Middlesex and Union counties, and caused inestimable damage in every quarter. ficed which devastated Plainfield about eight years ago, and the water to-night is likely to pass th mark which it did at that time. The downpour of water was appalling to persons who remembered the danger that has always threatened by the anticipated bursting of the Feltville dam, north of the village of Scotch Plains. Great con sternation prevails among the people living in Washingtonville and the "Notch," as the valley be-tween North Plainfield to Washingtonville is known. the immense dam recently built by the Plain field Ice and Cold Storage Company should give way. The dam backs up fifteen acres of water that great force, undermined a section of one of the earth wings of the dam, and it was thought that the great pressure back of it would break the dam. A small crevice was made in the softened earth

misfit for New-York at this time of hade it distressing for pedestrians, e took place until about 4 o'clock in n, when the rain began to fall with ncy and force of a aropical storm, continued without the sign of abatemake matters even worse, two ms broke over the city at night, streets to such an extent as to make impassable in many places.

L. PROPRIETORS SUFFER.

Iged wet weather, besides being a comfort to city residents, has more equences to answer for. From the arding-house keepers at the seaside country resorts are heard loud, and they tell of the loss because used rain of many thousands of doloration companies furnishing active the rearby seashores are also and it has been estimated by an Starin Line that the loss to differshas not been less than a round illars. For days past the pleasure tipp, from New-York have frecarried more than a score of pastirip.

He great pressure back of it would break the dam. A small crevice was made in the softened earth, and every moment it continued to afferd space for a larger volume of water to escape. The ice company officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party officials soon had a large force of men at work party

#### HUDSON VALLEY CROPS DAMAGED. REAVY LOSS TO FARMERS ON GRAIN, HAY AND SMALL FRUITS

Kingston, July 28 (Special).-The continued rains and lack of sunshine have already caused loss and damage to crops almost beyond estimate in the damage to crops almost beyond estimate in the Hudson River Valley. Farmers who depend upon their crops of grain and hay for a living are in sore distress over the situation. In fact, there is no record here of any such harvest weather. For about three weeks there has scarcely been a single day without rain, and there is no sign of relief. Usually, at this time of the season, the hay and grain crops have all been harvested and stored in the barns. But now the meadows are still covered with the heavy stands of grass and grain which is dead ripe, and most of it would be of no value if it could be gathered at once, which, of value if it could be course, there is no chance of doing. The juice and substance of the grass have now disappeared, and as for the grain much of it is beginning to germinate, making it unfit for use. Hundreds of acres of wheat and rye are standing in the shock or lying in bunches where the reaper left it on a promising day of sunshine weeks ago, having been caught in the showers before dry enough to house. Other hirdreds of acres are still uncut. Small fruits are histogreatly damaged, especially raspherries and blackberries, and now the grape vineyards are also siffering from the same cause, and there is much alarm in the great grape region of southern Ulster, The grape rol and other fungous diseases are greatly augmented by continued wet weather and lack of sunshine and drying winds. Not in years has the average farmer of this central Hudson locality been confronted with such a discouraging outlook as now. ourse, there is no chance of doing. The juice and

WESTERN NEW-YORK CROPS SUFFER. Buffelo, July 28,-Dispatches from Western New-York points say that the almost incessant rains have had a serious effect on crops. Wheat has been pretty well cut, but still stands in the fields. In some sections it is reported as sprouting and in others there are appearances of rust. Barley is suffering badly and oats will be late.

SNOWFLAKES IN SULLIVAN COUNTY. Middletown, N. Y., July 28.—The temperature has been low to-day Snowflakes were seen to-day by local railroad men Sullivan County visitors have been returning to New-York by the carload to day. It is the coldest weather of any summer in years, and a steady downfall of rain for three days had made the highways as bad as in early spring. Touring bleyelists have been tied up here for two

A SNOW FLURRY IN RHODE ISLAND. Woonsocket R. L. July 28.-Fiurries of snow were seen here early this morning.

ANOTHER HOT WAVE IN MISSOURI. St. Joseph, Mo., July 23.—Another hot wave has reached this section, and the mercury was almost to the 100 mark again to-day. Jefferson Thomas, a farmer visiting in this city, has been crazed by the heat, and there have been a number of minor prostrations

FOUR DROWNED BY THE SINKING OF THE BARKENTINE FLORENCE.

THE ALLAN LINER SCANDINAVIAN RUNS HER

DOWN IN A FOG OFF CAPE RACE. Boston, July 28.-The Allan Line steamer Scan-

dinavian arrived this afternoon from Glasgow and brought with her the four survivors of the crew of the British barkentine Florence, Captain Olsen, which was sunk in a collision with the Scandinavian last Saturday, while in a dense fog twenty miles south of Cape Race. Four members of the crew were drowned, together with the wife of Captain Olsen. The Florence was bound from Sydney, C. B., to St. John's, N. F., with a cargo of coal.

The names of the men who lost their lives Noah Norris, cook, aged fifty-one years, of St. John's, N. F., who leaves an invalid wife and two children; William Yabsley, aged twenty-five years, a nephew of the captain's wife, single; James Norman, scaman, aged thirty-two years, single, both of St. John's, N. F., and William Fry, thirty-three years of age, seaman, belonging in Poole, England.

Captain Olsen said: "We left port on Tuesday, the 20th inst., for St. John's, N. F., Saturday, after being nearly three days in the fog and standing in all that time in the direction of Cape Race, N. F., thinking we were approaching land, ordered the vessel put about on the starboard tack. At 1:20 p. m. the shrill blast of a steamer's whilstle was heard right abeam, and sefore the sound died away there loomed up. making directly for us, the huge hull of an

"I was below when the first intimation came of the steamer's approach, but was hurriedly called on deck by the lookout. On the way out of the cabin I called to my wife and she in turn aroused First Mate Edward Brodnick, who had come off watch at noon, and was asleep in his bunk. Hardly had he reached the deck when the steamer, which proved to be the Scandinavian. was upon us. She struck us on the port side between the main and mizzen rigging, and before her headway was stopped she went halfway through us. While the vessels were locked ogether we were in no immediate danger exthe steamer's engines, which had been given when we were first sighted, soon had the effect of breaking her away from us, and in about three minutes after she pulled her sharp bow out of the gaping hole in the side of our vessel the Florence went down, stern first, in ninety fathoms of water. Of the vessel's crew, Norris, after the vessel struck us, and they were prob asleep in the forecastle.

"When the impact came, Ole Olsen, the boatswain, and Seaman Robert Essens jumped into the main rigging and were soon followed by selves to the steamer's deck by means of the lower guard, being assisted in doing so by the carpenter of the steamer. Poor Fry appeared at the side of the vessel just before she went down. A rope was thrown him by his shipmates on board the steamer and he was pulled halfway up the steamer's side, when he relaxed his hold, fell back into the water, and was never

Mate Brodnick, after telling of his being sum moned from his bunk by the captain's wife and jumping on deck clad only in his shirt and

and jumping in the trousers, said:
"Immediately after reaching the deck of the Scandinavian I got a coil of rope and threw it to Captain Olsen, who at this time was standing near the galley on the barkentine with his arms."

Mrs. Olsen was crying, and I near the gamey on around his wife. Mrs. Olsen was crying, and I heard the captain say that if they need be they would die together. The captain secured the heard the captain say that if they need be they would die together. The captain secured the end of the rope and attempted to make it fast about his wife, but the rope was not long enough, and the steamer just then backing away from the wreck pulled the line from his hands. I called to those on the steamer to lower the lifeboat, and Olsen. Essens and myself took hold and assisted the crew in getting the boat out of the chucks. In the excitement and constraint of the chucks in the excitement and constraint of the chucks. out of the chucks. In the excitement and con-fusion no one seemed to know just what to do. No knife could be found to cut the lashings of the lifeboat, and finally the carpenter was obliged to sever the grips with a hatchet. All this was valuable time lost, and before the life-boat had got into the water the vessel had gone down.

gone down.

"When the vessel took her last plunge captain became separated from his wife. To were both drawn into the vortex caused by sinking craft, and Mrs. Olsen never reapper above the water. The captain soon came to sinking craft, and Mrs. Olsen never reappeared above the water. The captain soon came to the surface and swam to a life buoy thrown from the steamer, and this, with a lifebelt, which he afterward secured and adjusted, kept him affoat until the lifeboat, manned by the second officer of the steamer, three of her crew and myself, reached him. He was completely exhausted and inconsolable at the loss of his wife. When it was found that there was no hope for the remainder of the crew, the steamer's bow was headed west, and she continued on her way to Boston. oston. The Florence was rather a small vessel for a

The Florence was rather a small vessel for a barkentine. She registered only 190 tons net, and her dimensions were 114.8 feet, breadth 24.5 feet and depth of hold 13.1 feet. She was built at Brixham, England, in 1873, and at the time of her loss was valued at \$4,500.

AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVES FOR JAPAN.

AN ORDER FOR TWENTY MORE RECEIVED BY THE BALDWIN WORKS.

Philadelphia, July 28.-The Baldwin Locomotive Works yesterday booked an order for twenty loco-motives for Japan. This, with orders already re-ceived, makes a total of fifty for that empire. Thirty have just been shipped Of these, eighteen were for the Government roads and twelve for a private railroad corporation. The order just received is for the Japanese Government.

It is said by the officials of the Baldwin works that there is practically no serious European competition in this trade, and that prices can be made much lower than those offered by English, Germuch lower than those othered by English, de-man or French manufacturers. The reputation of American locomotives in some countries, especially in China and Japan, has brought about a competi-tion there among American manufacturers so strong that the prices are even closer than on loco-motives for the domestic market.

# HELPLESS ON A BARREN ISLAND.

A PARTY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN A PERHOU SITUATION OFF NEW-ROCHELLE.

Much anxiety is being felt by relatives and friends for a party of well-known young men and women of Mount Vernon who are believed to be helpless on Huckleberry Island, one mile northeast of New-Rochelle, just at the entrance of Echo Bay. The members of the party are Edwin S. Cornell and his sister, Miss Blanche Cornell; Asa De Forest and his sister, Miss Elizabeth De Forest, Charles Bard, son of Judge William H. Bard, and Christian Morgan, a brother of Harry V. Morgan. a well-known Mount Vernon lawyer. The young people left Mount Vernon a week ago Saturday and pitched their tents on the island, with the intention of having a two weeks' outing. They took with them three rowboats, which they moored in a

Monday. On Tuesday morning Mrs. De Forest and a friend tried to reach the island in a sailboat but after being tossed about for two hours by

but after being tossed about for two hours by rough seas were forced to return to New-Rochelle. Judge William H. Bard also made an unsuccessful attempt to reach them from his summer home at City Island.

The sea is no rough that none of the yachtsmen or boatmen will attempt the perilous voyage, and in the mean time the boats and tents of the party are believed to have been carried away, and they are suffering from rough weather and want of food. Priends gathered at the wharf in New-Rochelle and anxiously scanned the island with glasses, but could not see a trace of the tents or members of the party. The island is one of the most barren along the Long Island Sound, and contains no buildings and no vegetation, except a few shrubs and bushes.

# CUT DOWN BY A BIG STEAMER. NEW LIFE IN THE STRIKE.

EFFECT OF THE CONFERENCE OF LABOR

LEADERS.

GREAT GAINS MADE BY THE STRIKERS IN WEST VIRGINIA-WOMEN ASSAULT NEW MEN AT THE MONONGAH MINES.

[BT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Wheeling, W. Va., July 28.-That the conference of National labor leaders held here yesterday planned far more than was given to the public was demonstrated to-day. The strike, which was a flat failure in West Virginia, and which every one expected the mine-workers to give up, has taken on new life, and movements were set in operation to-day which are expected to change the entire aspect of affairs within a few days. The first act was the employment of John J. Davis, an ex-Congressman and one of the best lawyers in the State, to defend the infunction cases brought by the Monongah and Watson companies at Fairmont to prevent parading and assemblages on the public roads of

The second move was the departure of President Ratchford and Mr. Gompers for Charleston to meet Governor Atkinson and discuss with him the position which West Virginia's Executive take with regard to local courts, constables and Mayors suppressing free speech and peace able assemblage.

The experiences of the agitators in Fairmont and at points along the Norfolk and Western show the local authorities to be dominated by the coal operators and willing to do their bidding. Governor Atkinson has de nounced all efforts to prevent peaceable assemblage, and he is expected to give Gompers

Representatives of the American Federation yesterday's meeting had resulted in the unification of the two organizations so far as the present fight is concerned, and that they will go hand

This moraing, when the new men at the Mo nongah mines went to work, they were assaulted by the wives and daughters of the striking miners. The women were so violent in their des strations that the miners fled precipita Stones and clubs were used effectively. fled precipitately.

The strikers made great gains in the Wheeling district to-day, and to-morrow there will not be a man at work in any mine in the district. In the Kanawha Valley work has not been resumed yet, but that region and the Norfolk and Western will be attacked by the organizers this week. Compers to-day promised that two hun-dred agitators would be in West Virginia next

Gompers. Ratchford and Sovereign arrived in Gompers, Rateniord and were received by Gov-crnor Atkinson. The Governor explained that he had no authority over the judicial and legis-lative departments, but said he recognized that he had no authority over the judicial and legis-lative departments, but said he recognized that the infunction of Judge Mason at Fairmont was too sweeping, and that no man could be denied the right of free speech or assemblage in West Virginia unless it were made with the view of creating riot and insurrection. The Governor may be depended upon to do all in his power to secure to the miners their full rights and lib-

THE OPERATORS' CONFERENCE ENDS. ADOPTION OF THE "TRUE UNIFORMITY" AGREE MENT-ITS PROVISIONS.

Pittsburg, July 28.—The "true uniformity" erence of coal operators of the Pittsburg district cluded its work to-night at 9:15 o'clock, after two days' session of close and persistent work twenty-one sections of the uniformity agree ment were thoroughly discussed and adopted see by section. The best feeling prevailed through out the meetings, the only exception being the boiting of Colonel Rend at yesterday's session. Just previous to adjournment, however, Judge Owens announced that Colonel Rend had author ized him to say that any agreement the co adopted would receive his hearty co-operation, and he would sign it if 95, 50 or even 20 per cent of th operators were sincere in their sanction of it. conference appointed a committee of five-W. P. De Armitt, J. B. Zerbe, J. J. Stoyler, J. B. Dyori and N. F. Sanford-with General John Little, to secure the signatures of the operators to the agree ment. This committee will begin its work to-mor row. It will be aided by the Ohlo Board of Arbitration. When the requisite number of signature have been secured another meeting will be held to

Speeches were made by De Armitt, Demester, Little, Zerbe and others, all expressing satisfaction at the result of the meeting and predicting the success of the plan.

The agreement as adopted provides for cash pay ment of wages, 2,000 pounds to the ton, check weighmen on the tipples, mine's to be credited with the full quantity of coal contained in the mine car abolition of company stores, semi-monthly pay days, uniform price for pick mining in th and thick vein districts, and screens not exceeding

and thick vein districts, and screens not exceeding one and a half inches. It also provides that in case of the violation of the provisions and terms of the agreement a penalty of 10 cents per ton on the total output of coal mined by the violator will be charged, which is to be paid to a commission subject to the right of further arbitration or appeal. The penalty when collected is to be distributed among the signers of the agreement provata in propertion to the total amount of tonnage or output made by them during the year.

The commission is to be chosen annually, and shall be known by the name of the Unformity Commission. It shall be composed of nine members, the thick and thin vein operators having proper representation. The members shall be sworn faithfully and impartially to perform the duties of their office, and will be authorized and empowered to enforce the judgments and awards. It shall also be empowered to subpens witnesses with the same force and effect as a board of arbitrators duly appointed under the act of Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania relating to compulsory arbitration. The agreement shall not become effective unless it has been slaned by 25 per cent of the operators on or before January 1, 1988. After 96 per cent have signed the agreement, if any fifteen operators shall be of the opinion that enough have signed to render it effective, a meeting shall be called in Pittsburg to declare it in force.

# MORE WORK THAN MEN TO DO IT.

THE GREAT DEMAND FOR LABOR IN NORTH TONAWANDA, N. Y.

North Tonawanda, N. Y., July 28 (Special).-In the city of North Tonawanda, with a population of 20,000, there are no idle workmen who are willing to Labor is in big demand, and it was only few days ago that the contracting firm of Beckric & Ryan had to send to Buffalo for a large force of laborers to work on - public contract. tractors in question tried every means known to them to get laborers without going out of the city Display advertisements were inserted in the papers but the demand could not be supplied. anda Iron and Steel Works, a controlling interes in which is owned by Mark A. Hanna, offered work to an extra force of men a few days ago, but the demand in that direction is not yet fully supplied e Plumb, Burdiet & Barnard nut and bolt work will resume operations on August 16, with a force of about three hundred men, all skilled mechanics. The Michigan Pipe Company has a large water extension contract in this city, but the company is experiencing a good deal of trouble in securing help. The indiator works are employing good men every day, and in a few days Feuchen & Co., of Toronto, will open a large manufacturing business here and give employment to two hundred men. The cycle path contractors, who are building a cycle path between this city and the town of Wheatfield, will engage laboring men at 15 as a day, while the lumbermen will employ about one thousand men as soon as the busy season. September, begins if they can get them. In the local papers to-night there is not a line under the head of sinusions wanted." will resume operations on August 16, with a for

THE APPEAL ON THE TRUST DECISION. Albany, July 28.-J. Newton Fiero, associate counsel with the Attorney-General in the effort to in vestigate the alleged existence of a coal trust in this State, stated to-day that the appeal from the decision of Justice Chester, declaring the Anti-Trust laws passed by the Legislature at its last irust laws passed by the Legislature at its last session to be unconstitutional, would be filed with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in the third department within a few days. He also said that the argument on the same would be made at the first session of that court in this city, in September. The court will be asked to hand down a decision at an early date, so that the appeal which will be taken by the losing side may be argued before the Court of Appeals at the session to be held in this city is October.

# NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1897.-TWELVE PAGES. SILVER STILL ON THE DOWN TRACK A LAND OFFICE SCANDAL

COMMERCIAL BARS GO TO 57% CENTS AN OUNCE-A DEAL IN THE ANTHRACITE

COAL TRADE UNDER WAY. There was another heavy break in the price of silver yesterday. Commercial bars dropped to 57% cents an ounce, which was a decline of 74 cent from the day preceding. The price fell in ndon, which is recognized as the world's mar ket for silver, % of a penny to 25% pence an ounce The price of Government assay bars in this market was 57½ cents an ounce, which made the value of silver in a silver dollar 44.475 cents an ounce As has been explained, the fall in silver lowest prices ever known is due to the lack of demand from the East and the large offerings of silver by the American mines. India is obtaining its supplies of silver largely from China, instead of from London. China has a larger supply of silver than it requires. A deal of importance in the authracite coal trad

market of the stocks of the anthracite-carrying railroads shows this. The hand of J. Pierpont Morgan is seen in the work that is in progress His efforts are in the direction of concentration of the coal interests. As is known, he has control of the Philadelphia and Reading and the Lehigh Valley railroads. Another plan of his is said to b to secure the New-York, Susquehanna and Western Road and turn it over to the Eric Railroad, in which he is in authority. The Susquehanna an also reported that Mr. Morgan purposes to lease of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Com-Railroad. The Delaware and Hudson has an extensive railroad system, and is one of the largest of the coal carriers. The Vanderbiits already have practically a dominating influence in the Delaware ckawanna and Western Railread, and the acquisition of the Delaware and Hudson by would place them in a commanding position in the coal trade. They, of course, join with Mr. Morgan whatever he does. The Central Railroad of by the "First National Bank party," wise co-operates with Mr. Morgan. Mr. Morgan may now be said to be in a position to regulate the production and prices of coal absolutely. He certainly commands the co-operation of companies which handle three-quarters of the entire output of anthracite coal. It is the knowledge by specu lators of this situation in the anthracite trade

lators of this situation in the anthracite trade which has resulted in the activity and advance in the prices of the stocks of the coal roads.

The advance in sterling is ascribed chiefly to the fact that, as a result of easier discount and firmer sterling in Paris, the special export point in New-York has been raised. Consequently, bankers have found it necessary to advance their asking rates for bills as a preliminary to gold shipments on Saturday. Whatever gold may be exported Saturday will go to Paris. There may be German orders in the market, but business in exchange between bankers and brokers so far this week does not indicate the presence of any. The ease of money tends to facilitate exports of gold, while it works against bankers wishing to go short of exchange. LOWEST PRICE ON RECORD IN LONDON.

London, July 28.—To-day silver bars touched 28%, the lowest figures on record. There is an almost entire absence of demand, as India is obtaining her supplies from China.

City of Mexico, July 28.-The drop in silver as

### SERIOUS EFFECTS IN MEXICO.

ounced yesterday created much comment here in York rose to 118, and on the street to 120, and London exchange was quoted at 22 pence. If silver remains down the loss to corporations having gold present basis gold interest on the Government eans abroad will require \$1,000,000 more in silver

been cancelled, mechants desiring to see how the exchange is going.

It is generally believed that the sudden fall in silver is due to the unloading by large buillion holders, coupled with the new gold discoveries and the continued small demand for silver in India. The fluctuation in exchange does more harm than low prices, as it makes impossible all calculations. The continued low price of silver will revive the talk of adopting the gold standard. Bankers, while anticipating even lower prices for silver, believe that there will be reaction to a price that will permit something like steadiness in exchange and stability in business operations.

# BAD WRECK ON THE CENTRAL PACIFIC.

SIX INDIANS KILLED AND SEVERAL BADLY IN-JURED.

Mile Hill, about six miles west of Reno. gine was overturned and thrown to one side of the track and the tender on the other, and the road is littered with the debris of the baggage, express and mail cars, which were reduced to kindling wood. Of fifteen Indians who were riding in the baggagecar, six were killed and nearly all the remainder vere more or less injured. The engineer and fireman were also injured.

The mail clerks, George W. O'Brien and S. A. Ross, escaped with a few cuts about the head and bruises about the body. The Wells-Fargo express messenger, J. J. Burke, was badly shaken up and messenger, J. J. Burke, was badly shaken up and bruised. The wreck was caused probably by the spreading of the rails. The mail and express cars were turned bottom side up, the day coach and one sleeper were thrown at right angles to the track and the dining-car and two Pillman coaches were hadly wrecked. Only two cars remained on the track. The wounded were brought to Reno early up for three hundred yards or more.

# SHE WAS NOT USED TO HOTEL WAYS.

A YOUNG WOMAN AFTER REGISTERING GIVES THE CLERKS A SURPRISE.

She drifted into an uptown hotel yesterday afternoon by way of the women's entrance. She was plainly but neatly clad, and did not look like a girl who was used to the system in operation at a olg hotel. She had a bright, pretty face and looked fresh and charming. The two clerks on duty eyed her curiously and exchanged comments about the girl. She hesitated a moment when she reached the office, but, after some little display of embarrassment, walked up to the desk and picked up a pen in a diffident manner. The clerk wheeled ook around so that the place for signatures was in the proper position and waited. She chewed nervously at the end of the pen, then dipped it slowly in the ink and with a great deal of pains wrote:

"Miss Mary M'Closky, 372 West Ninety-third-st." Then she eyed her effort approvingly and care-

"Room, miss"

A flush mantled her face, but she said, sweetly:

'Yes if you please."

"Yes if you please."
"Would you like a room with a bath?" asked the clerk, in a puzzled tone. Again sne seemed embarrassed and hesitated, but finally said in a low "Yes, if you please. That would be very nice and

Yes, If you please. That would thank you very much.
"How much do you care to pay for a room?"
ald the cirk as his eye swept the rack.
"Pay?" she said in sheer surprise. "Pay? Why,
didn't expect to pay anything. I got a job here
olay as a chambermaid and I have just come

THE "SEIZURE" OF PALMYRA ISLAND.

IT IS ONLY A BARREN ROCK, AND HAS BEEN OCCUPIED NINE YEARS BY ENGLAND. Washington, July 28.-State Department officials

say that no new issue is presented by the "selzure" of Paimyra Island by the British, reported some days ago by an incoming vessel, for Great Britain has maintained a claim to the island for the last nine years. The island is said to lie in the Polynesian group, and, although Hawaii has asserted a claim to its possession, this Government has not been strongly in pressed with the validity of the caim. Meanwhile the British, it is said, not only have asserted a claim to it, but have actually occupled the island for some years past. In view of the probable annexation of Hawait by the United States, the matter doubtless will receive closer attention in the future at the hands of the State Department, but it is not expected that the subject partment, but it is not expected that the subject will prove to be difficult of adjustment, particularly in view of the fact, as stated by naval officers, that Falmyra Island is nothing more than a barren rock in the Pacific, distant a thousand miles from Hawaii.

London, July 28.—With reference to the reported seizure by Great Britain of Palmyra Island, Polynesia, it is officially stated that the island has been British since 1888. The report is supposed to have arisen from the fact that the Wild Swan called there last May on a periodical visit.

FRAUDS WHICH HAVE COST THE GOV-ERNMENT MORE THAN \$1,000,000.

THE STORY OF THE BENSON CLAIMS AND COM MISSIONER LAMOREAUX'S APPROVAL OF

THEM-A COMPROMISE MADE BY COMMISSIONER HERMANN

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Washington, July 28.—The Interior Department, under the direction of the new Administration, has undertaken to dispose of the Benson frauds, which had their beginning in the seven years from 1878 to 1885 in California and other Western States. These frauds consisted in false surveys, which cost the United States more than \$1,000,000. The last of the Benson contracts, as recent Commissioner of the Land Office, Stlas W. Lamoreaux, did his best to give Benson and his associates all that they asked for. He might have succeeded had not Secretary Francis in one

instance, and the present Commissioner, Binger

Hermann, in another, blocked him. Commissioner Lamoreaux first prepared an estimate to go into one of the appropriation bills in these fraudulent surveys, but Secretary Francls would not approve the estimate, and it was not submitted to Congress. Lamoreaux cannot offer ignorance as an excuse for his action, because he prepared the estimate under protest of H. L. Collier, of Georgia, one of Secretary Hoke careful examination of these surveys and was well satisfied that they were fraudulent. Collier, for his pains, was dismissed by Lamoreaux's

#### A HALT CALLED BY MR. HERMANN.

as Commissioner of the Land Office he soon discovered that his predecessor had approved the accounts for the five remaining "Benson surveys" and had sent them, in all amounting to \$50,000, of which \$35,000 was for surveys and ment for payment as soon as an appropriation might be available. This also was done against the protest of Inspector Collier, Commissioner Hermann caused the agents of the Interior Department to conduct an investigation which satisfied him that Lamoreaux should never have approved the accounts. He immediately sent an papers returned to the Division of Accounts of the Interior Department. He also issued notice to Benson and his associates to show cause why the payment of their remaining claims should not be suspended.

Benson with his attorneys hastened to Was ington and spent many days arguing and pleading with Commissioner Hermann to let Lamoreaux's approval of the accounts stand. But when Commissioner Hermann produced the reports of the agents of the Land Office showing conclusively that the surveys were not valid and had not been made honestly, Benson weakened and proposed a compromise. and by its terms the surveys will be made over again honestly, and when approved by the agents of the Land Office will be paid for. The United States, for the time being, agrees not to prosecute civil suits to recover money which was paid out of the Treasury on fraudulent

BENSON'S RECORD IN CALIFORNIA The evidence in seventy-six indictments against

John A. Benson, his associates and employes. for violating the laws of the United States, best shows the character of the business he engaged in. Benson after his arrival in California first taught school, but he soon gave this up to enter the Government service as deputy surveyor. He held this office until May 22, 1879, when he tendered his resignation to Surveyor-General Wagner, of the State of California, on account Reno, Nev., July 28.—One of the worst wrecks in of his "wish to engage in business which in some respects might be incompatible with his duties

as deputy surveyor." Prior to his resignation he and his associates had secured surveying contracts to the amount of \$77,000 from Surveyor-General Wagner, but after his resignation Benson's name disappeared from the rolls of the Surveyor-General's office as a contracting deputy, and thereafter he employed men to make surveys in California and in other States of the West and Northwest. These men were appointed deputy surveyors upon the request of Benson, and without their knowledge he took contracts in their names. He had them sign blank bonds, contracts, oaths, powers of attorney, etc., of which they knew neither the import nor the use.

Benson paid some of his men monthly wages of \$50 to \$60, and with others he divided the profits of contracts taken in their names. In California he nominated such men as he wanted for deputy surveyors, and Surveyors-General Wagner and Brown straightway appointed them, He arranged with different persons in San Francisco to act as sureties for the deputies, and such bonds were invariably signed in blank. Oaths were seldom administered.

Evidence filed away in the Interior Department shows that Benson had the co-operation and assistance of the Surveyor-General's office in concealing from the ring's dummy surveyors the fact that contracts had been put in their names without their request, consent or knowledge. Contracts amounting to \$200,000 were taken out in the names of five persons who did not discover that there were contracts in their names until two years after they had been entered in the records, and in some cases not until the frauds had been exposed. The proceeds of these contracts were collected and turned over to Benson by the use of nowers of attorney, signed in blank and filled up as required, which were accepted by the Surveyor-General and were forwarded to the General Land Office. Part of such powers of attorney, signed in blank, purport to have been duly executed before Theodore Reichert, the chief clerk of the Surveyor-General's office, acting as United States Commissioner, once, acting as United States Commissioner.
One of the five persons referred to was never appointed a deputy surveyor, never took an oath of office, never issued a power of attorney, and never collected a dollar, though the Treasury Department paid in his name to the Benson ring

A GIGANTIC SCHEME OF PLUNDER.

The history of the ring's operations in the State of California alone shows that it was the most stupendous scheme of fraud, perjury and public robbery, assisted and protected by officials of the Land Department, that has been exposed

the Land Department, that has been exposed since the formation of the Government. In 1885 Special Agent Conrad was sent out to make an investigation, and he succeeded in obtaining evidence that caused the Grand Jury to return twenty-four indictments against Benson alone and seventy-six indictments against the ring.

During the seven years of his operations Benson secured from Surveyors-General Theodore Wagner and W. H. Brown contracts amounting to \$089,000, or 79 and 85 per cent respectively of all the contracts let by them during that entire period. But a single contract, and that for less than \$3,000, was taken out in Benson's name. Deducting the cost of surveys, the profits of the Benson ring were nearly 70 per cent. A paper purporting to be a settlement between Benson and one of his partners for surveys amounting to \$25,000 shows a net profit of 51 per cent, and the following items of expense:

Expenses of surveys. \$106,000
Paid for loobying in Congress 25,080
Paid for blackmakers 5,080
Paid to Surveyor General 1.580
Paid to attorneys before General Land Office. 17,500

Total .....\$171,000 It was the practice of the ring to make some